



INVESTMENT WORLD CONVENES IN SAN PEDRO

BIS: Bridging Markets, Building Resilience



“My challenge to you is this:

To our local entrepreneurs: formalize, grow, and seize the opportunities ahead.

To our diaspora: bring home your knowledge, capital, and networks.

To our international partners: join us in this transformation.

Together, let's bridge markets, build resilience, and secure a prosperous future for Belize.

Let's forge forward together.

Welcome to Opportunity!

Welcome to Belize! – Prime Minister John Briceño, Key-note Address

■ Pg.2

**Historic for Belizean Fisheries | Corozal Bay Marshalls Ready
First National Climate Finance Forum | Passport Application Streamlined**

■ Inside



**PUP NORTHERN CAUCUS
WORKING HAND IN HAND**

■ Pg. 5



**FLAGS UNFURLED
PATRIOTISM RAISED ALL OVER BELIZE**

■ Pg.5



**SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026
PARENTS & CHILDREN READY**

■ Pg.9

**LANDMARK RULING
GOB SAVES
TAXPAYERS 2.1M**

Duplication of Land Titles Case

■ Pg.6

Happy 10th September: 227th Anniversary Battle of St. George's Caye

BELIZE INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

An excitable atmosphere unfolded at the opening of the much-anticipated Belize Investment Summit 2025, from the opening remarks of Ms. Narda Garcia, Ceo, Office of the Prime Minister, and Investment, to the dual guest speakers, Dr Ernesto Stein and Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts and Beaches Resorts, Prime Minister, John Briceno's keynote address as well as the other presentations. There was the reverberating echo, as PM Briceno's message indicated, Belize stands as a beacon of opportunity as the nexus of CARICOM, Central America, Southeastern Mexico and beyond, embedded in the theme "BRIDGING MARKETS, BUILDING RESILIENCE".

The Office of the Prime Minister conceived the idea of an investment summit in the darkest and most vicious times in Belize, the COVID-19 pandemic era. The economy was in a spiral, and one of Belize's greatest revenue earners, came to a striking halt. Additionally, investors' confidence was at an all-time low. The genius and genesis of the investment summit was intended to resurrect, stabilize and jumpstart the economy and to bring back the investors' confidence to the shores of Belize. This started in 2021 under the theme "BELIZE: OPEN FOR BUSINESS" and thereafter in 2023 "ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES" to now "BRIDGING MARKETS, BUILDING RESILIENCE".



As CEO Garcia proffered in her opening remarks stated *"Today we open this important gathering with the timely and powerful theme "Bridging Markets, Building Resilience" Belize the Nexus of CARICOM, Central America, and Mexico in the new trade era."* Considering the theme not merely a slogan, but Belize's reality, the Jewel's strategy as an invitation to investors. CEO Garcia explained that *"Bridging markets means more than geographic proximity. It means linking our abundant natural and human capital, with global demand. Connecting investors with concrete bankable opportunities and closing the gap between ambition and implementation."*

One of Belize's foremost realities is the defining moments which is shaped by accelerating technological change, shifting supply chain, heightened attention to climate risk and new models of trade and finance. Garcia alluded that for small economies like Belize, these shifts present both Challenges and opportunities.

Something that Dr. Ernesto Stein suggested in regards to the imposition of Trump's tariffs on commodities that are exported at higher tariff rates that Belize produces: Example, the exportation of essential oils such as the citrus oil that Belize export to bigger economies like Brazil which in turn export to the US markets could be an advantageous product that Belize can export. Stein illustrated that as a nexus to a better proposition for Belize's export product is the strategic neighbors of Belize Mexico. An advice by Stein, is for Belize to position itself to realize Real Comparative Advantage which Stein highlighted that out of 19 products Belize is exporting only a minuscule amount to its neighbors to the north Mexico. One of the salient advices given by Adam Stewart was *"Evolution is a reality. The world waits for no one"*. For Stewart branding is key to success in luxury tourism. Stewart identified three key components to building luxury tourism, destination brand, the type of investors and the people, as characterized by CEO Garcia, that have a heart that beats to a multicultural peaceful rhythm.

Importantly, Belize is strategically positioned, with a rich biodiversity, youthful, English-speaking population which continues to set Belize apart as a premier destination for sustainable investment and innovation. Interestingly, and this is embedded in the Prime Minister's message preceding the summit, which is underscored in the theme for the Belize Investment Summit 2025, "Bridging Markets, Building Resilience" the commitment to fostering greater connectivity among global and regional investors while at the same time strengthening Belize's capacity to thrive in an ever-evolving landscape.

Nonetheless, Prime Minister, John Briceño recognizes the challenges that lay in wait regarding the uncertainties and shifting realities. However, in spite of the challenges there is a sense of optimism and the determination of the government to forge forward with nation-building.

In the closing of the presentation, PM Briceño called on the entrepreneurs to formalize, grow, and seize the opportunities ahead. To the diaspora, bring home your knowledge, capital, and networks. To our international partners, he asked them to join us in this transformation. Together, let's bridge markets, build resilience and secure a prosperous future for Belize. No doubt it is a successful investment summit with the windfall forthcoming in benefitting all Belizeans.

By Hilly Bennett



The Belize Times

24 AUG 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5469The Truth Shall Make You Free24 AUG 2025 | ISSUE NO: 5469

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Printed and Published By
TIMES NEWSPAPER LTD.
Tel: 280-8385
#3 Queen Street
P.O. BOX 506
Belize City, Belize
Email: belizetimesadvertisement@yahoo.com



Stronger Together

As Belize edges closer to that Belizean holiday of holidays in celebration of her 44th Independence Day, there is a decisively proud exuberance that this land and sea are ours. Any notion that the lack of bloodshed en route to our Independence from the United Kingdom could weaken Belizean's fire of patriotism is shot further and further into oblivion. The debate on the details of the 1798 Battle of St. George's Caye seemingly has perpetual embers and is now paradoxical. Which came first, our desire to be free or a grapple with the Spaniards for what is ours? On whichever side of the debate, Belizeans will agree that we are Stronger Together, even in disagreement.

As flags unfurled across the nation on September 1, an intense sensation of goose bumps emanated from our patriotic hearts. The collective Belizean sigh on seeing the Blue, White, and Red raised into the blue sky, tainted by the pristine yellow sun, is uniquely unrivalled. If Belize were a person, she would be in her middle age. Still, as a country, she is a fledgling socially, politically, and economically, yet mature enough to know how to move forward, and this makes us Belizeans stronger than might be expected.

The advent of the Internet has transformed our social, political and economic fabric to one that is still uniquely Belizean. Countries, organisations and individuals have had to contend with the reality that we are all connected like never before. Knowing how to use this connectivity makes any entity stronger. Disregarding the Internet or being incompetent in using its features can lead to failure. For example, this week, Belize, with all her confidence, woos the Investment world at the Belize Investment Summit. Our self-assurance comes from the knowledge that Belize has the resources and expertise for investors to capitalise on in becoming a partner in building our nation. The speakers, panellists, and points of emphasis will draw strength from the summit's theme, which thrusts Belize into bridging markets in the region and the world while building on the resilience that years of planBelize have fostered. The strength of this endeavour comes not only from the attendees in San Pedro but, more importantly, from the thousands who will hear the speeches, immerse themselves in the panel discussions, read the comments, and watch the videos and pictures over social media.

Opposition to the growth in Belize has come in the form of the spewing of false narratives from the few remaining UDP, formerly a mass party in Belize. These few are virulent, and the government has had to spend unconfirmed millions of dollars in wasted time and effort in dispelling rumours and lies from these UDPs encrusted even in the media and financiers who would rather destroy Belize than see her flourish under the highly successful PM Briceño plan-Belize. However, it is in times of opposition that our unity as Belizeans shines the brightest. As recent as May-July of this year, thousands of villagers went to the polls and overwhelmingly endorsed the planBelize output and rightfully placed the responsibility on the government to stay right on that track with more progress. Similarly, in March 2025, this government's planBelize manifesto was updated by PM Briceño and his team to version 2.0 and endorsed by a General Election. The UDP media ignore the Village Council and General Election results. Overlooking the results is an open insult to the Belizean electorate.

The strength of Belize's democracy is not only at the polls, but today there is even greater strength in a Briceño government that listens and makes decisions based on pooling innovatively from all ideas, complaints and suggestions gathered at all events, interviews, meetings and conversations with Belizeans. Your voice matters, and it is through your active participation that we can genuinely be stronger together.

en Español Más Fuertes Juntos

medida que Belice se acerca a la festividad más importante del país, la celebración de su 44.º Día de la Independencia, se respira un orgullo exuberante por el hecho de que esta tierra y este mar sean nuestros. Cualquier idea de que la ausencia de derramamiento de sangre en el camino hacia nuestra independencia del Reino Unido debilitó el fuego del patriotismo beliceño queda cada vez más relegada al olvido. El debate sobre los detalles de la batalla de St. George's Caye de 1798 parece tener brasas perpetuas y ahora es paradójico. ¿Qué fue primero, nuestro deseo de ser libres o la lucha con los españoles por lo que es nuestro? Sea cual sea el lado del debate, los beliceños estarán de acuerdo en que juntos somos más fuertes, incluso en el desacuerdo.

Cuando las banderas se desplegaron por toda la nación el 1 de septiembre, una intensa sensación de piel de gallina emanó de nuestros corazones patrióticos. El suspiro colectivo de los beliceños al ver el azul, el blanco y el rojo elevarse hacia el cielo azul, mancillado por el sol amarillo inmaculado, es único e inigualable. Si Belice fuera una persona, estaría en la mediana edad. Sin embargo, como país, es inmaduro desde el punto de vista social, político y económico, pero lo suficientemente maduro como para saber avanzar, y esto nos hace a los beliceños más fuertes de lo que cabría esperar.

La llegada de Internet ha transformado nuestro tejido social, político y económico en uno que sigue siendo exclusivamente beliceño. Los países, las organizaciones y los individuos han tenido que lidiar con la realidad de que todos estamos conectados como nunca antes. Saber utilizar esta conectividad hace que cualquier entidad sea más fuerte. Ignorar Internet o ser incompetente en el uso de sus funciones puede conducir al fracaso. Por ejemplo, esta semana, Belice, con toda su confianza, corteja al mundo de las inversiones en la Cumbre de Inversiones de Belice. Nuestra seguridad proviene del conocimiento de que Belice cuenta con los recursos y la experiencia que los inversores pueden aprovechar para convertirse en socios en la construcción de nuestra nación. Los ponentes, los panelistas y los puntos destacados se nutrirán del tema de la cumbre que impulsa a Belice a tender puentes entre los mercados de la región y del mundo, al tiempo que se aprovecha la resiliencia que han fomentado años de planBelice. La fuerza de esta iniciativa proviene no solo de los asistentes en San Pedro, sino, lo que es más importante, de los miles de personas que escucharán los discursos, se sumergirán en los debates, leerán los comentarios y verán los vídeos y las imágenes en las redes sociales.

La oposición al crecimiento de Belice se ha manifestado en forma de falsas narrativas difundidas por los pocos miembros que quedan del UDP, antiguo partido mayoritario en Belice. Estos pocos son virulentos, y el Gobierno ha tenido que gastar millones de dólares en tiempo y esfuerzos desperdiciados para disipar los rumores y las mentiras de estos miembros del UDP, incrustados en los medios de comunicación y los financieros que prefieren destruir Belice antes que verla prosperar bajo el exitoso planBelize del primer ministro Briceño. Sin embargo, es en tiempos de oposición cuando nuestra unidad como beliceños brilla con más fuerza. Recientemente, entre mayo y julio de este año, miles de aldeanos acudieron a las urnas y respaldaron de forma abrumadora el plan Belice, y legítimamente impusieron al Gobierno la responsabilidad de mantener el rumbo con más avances. Del mismo modo, en marzo de 2025, el primer ministro Briceño y su equipo actualizaron el manifiesto del planBelice de este Gobierno a la versión 2.0 que fue respaldada en las elecciones generales. Los medios de comunicación del UDP ignoran los resultados de las elecciones generales y de los consejos de aldea. Pasar por alto los resultados es un insulto abierto al electorado beliceño.

La fuerza de la democracia de Belice no solo reside en las urnas, sino que hoy en día hay una fuerza aún mayor en un Gobierno de Briceño que escucha y toma decisiones basándose en la puesta en común de todas las ideas, las quejas y sugerencias recopiladas en todos los eventos, entrevistas, reuniones y conversaciones con los beliceños. Tu voz importa, y es a través de tu participación activa que podemos ser genuinamente más fuertes juntos.



BZE@44

STRONGER TOGETHER

RISING FOREVER





Flags Unfurled Belize Launches September Celebrations 2025



"Belize@44 – Stronger Together, Rising Forever."

At the break of dawn on September 1st, Belizeans across the country officially ushered in the 2025 September Celebrations with early morning flag-raising ceremonies under this year's theme: "Belize@44 – Stronger Together, Rising Forever."

From Corozal to Toledo, and in every town from San Pedro to Benque, citizens gathered at 6:00 a.m. to proudly watch the Belizean flag rise, marking the start of a month filled with culture, history, and patriotism. The ceremonies not only honor the 227th anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye but also celebrate 44 years of Belize's independence.

Over the coming weeks, Belizeans will enjoy a wide range of activities, not limited to those listed below. In Belize City, highlights include mas camp visits, the Creative and Cultural Excellence Awards, the Creative Youth Ideas Summit, J'ouvert, and the grand Carnival Road March. Belmopan will host its first-ever Cultural and Culinary Festival, along with a lively block party.

Orange Walk will see a 10K Run, Youth Concert, and Rock Concert/Food Truck Fest, while San Ignacio & Santa Elena celebrate with Senior Citizens' Day and a fireworks display. Benque will unveil a mural and host a pre-independence expo, while San Pedro welcomes the Belize Investment Summit and a Youth Talent Street Fest. Dangriga features children's shows, karaoke nights, and senior activities, while Corozal Town hosts its Ms. Independence Designate Presentation, Carnival King and Queen Bash, J'ouvert, and more. Punta Gorda rounds out the calendar with Art Day, a block party, and talent showcases. (see Centerfold in this publication for ALL NCC activities)

Thanks to the National Celebrations Commission and local partners, Belizeans can look forward to a vibrant month of unity and festivity—living true to this year's theme: "Stronger Together, Rising Forever."

The PUP Northern Caucus Stands United!



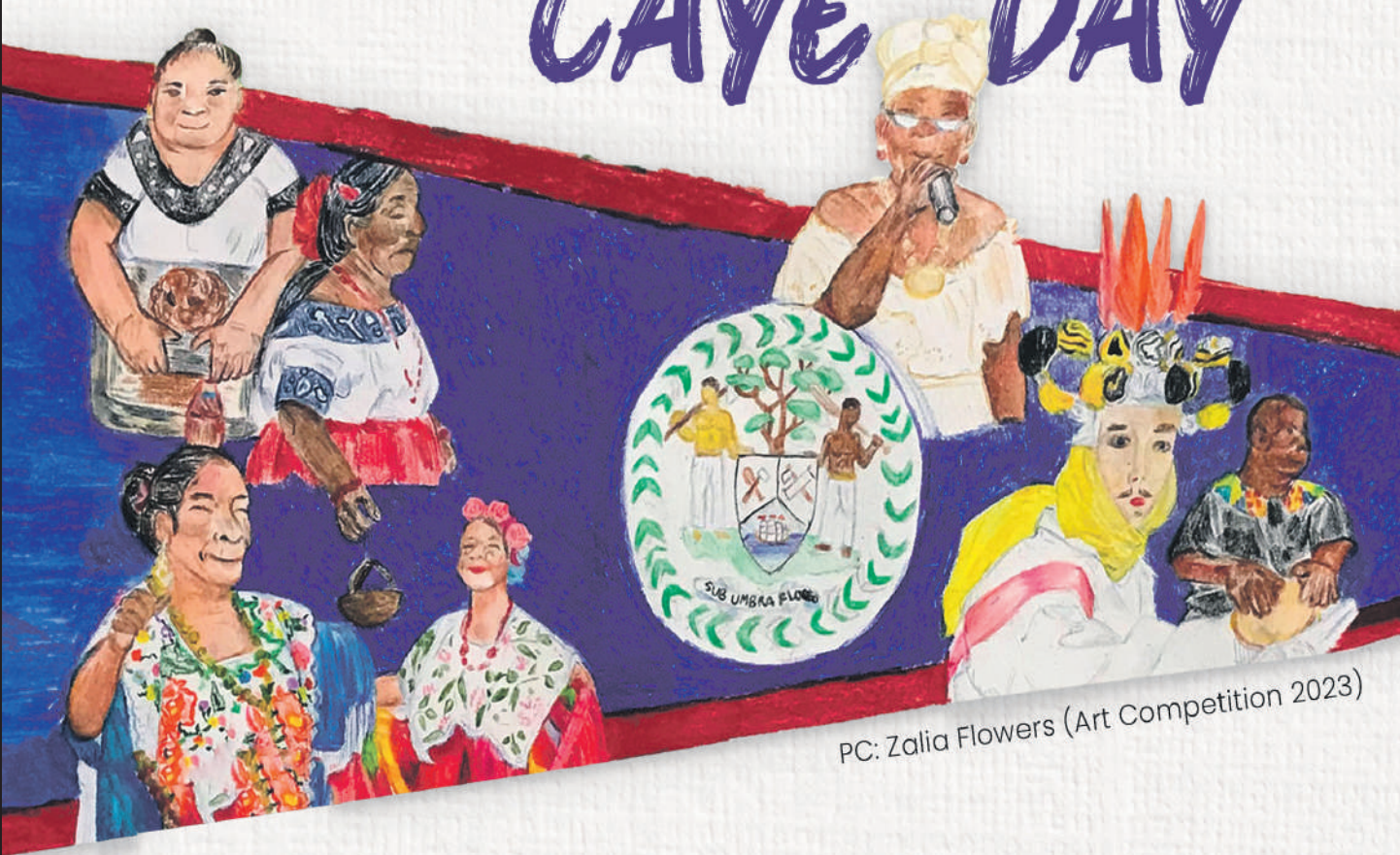
Constituency Leaders from across the Northern Caucus, including our Town Councils, ODS, UWG, BYM, and Marshals came together to share constituency reports, prepare for National Service Day, and look ahead to the 75th Anniversary of our Party.

As we honor our proud history, we remain committed to working hand in hand for the people of Belize, building a stronger, more united nation for all. (post)



Wishes everyone a safe & happy

ST. GEORGE'S CAYE DAY



PC: Zalia Flowers (Art Competition 2023)

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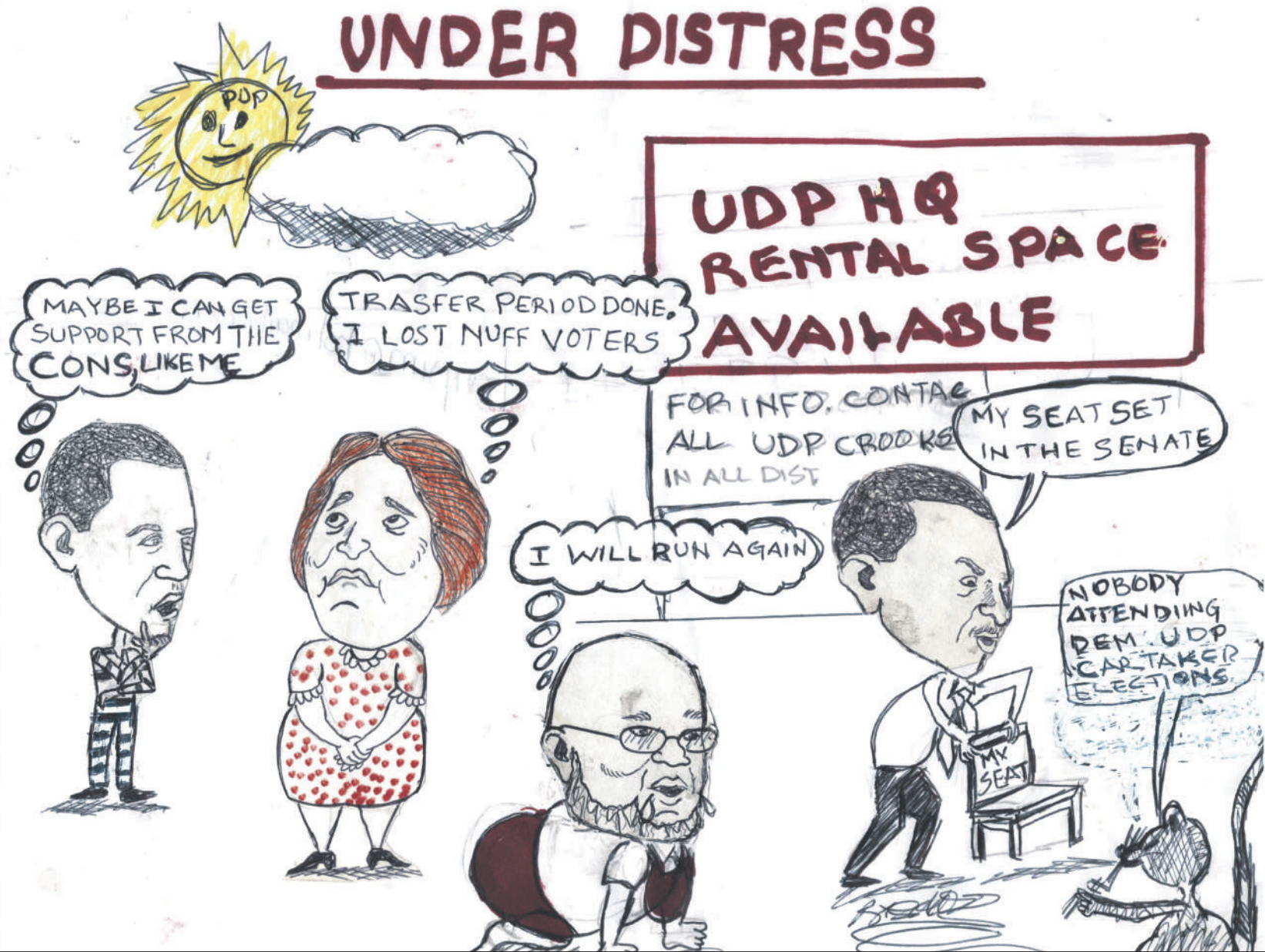
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CARTOON



Prime Minister’s Keynote Address
Hon. John Briceño

BELIZE’S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION:
THE ROAD AHEAD FOR INVESTMENTS.

Bridging Markets, Building Resilience: Belize, the Nexus of CARICOM,
Central America, and Mexico in a New Global Trade Era

Good morning.

The Organizers of this event told me it was sold out a few days after the site was posted.

I believe this is the result of two things: our wonderful keynote speakers and, of course, the excellent team of people who have literally spent months putting this conference together.

So I begin by recognizing those who set the stage for today’s opening:

- Mrs. Narda Garcia, CEO in the Office of the Prime Minister and the team at the Ministry of Investment.
- Mr. Ishmael Quiroz, Executive Director of BELTRAIDE and his talented team.
- Our esteemed guest, Dr. Ernesto Stein of the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey.
- And the outstanding Mr. Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of the world-renowned Sandals Resorts International.

Both of your addresses were inspiring and provided perspective on redefining luxury tourism, which ought to benefit all our tourism stakeholders present.

I also extend thanks to the Inter-American Development Bank for its enduring partnership with Belize, which we will strengthen today through important signings that focus on employability and inclusive growth. Most important, I warmly greet our investors, development partners, diaspora members, small business owners, policy makers and all who have joined us here.

My friends, in 2020, Belize carried one of the heaviest debt burdens in the region, 133 percent of GDP. Our economy had contracted, and the pandemic deepened the strain on jobs, businesses, and public finances. Yet, amid this crisis, Belize chose a bold path.

In 2021, while the world remained closed off, Belize declared itself open for business. That year we hosted the first-ever Belize Investment Summit. That decision signaled our determination to chart a new course, anchored in recovery through investment and partnership. With the discipline of the Ministry of Finance, the guidance of the Central Bank of Belize, and innovative finance and health diplomacy, we restored fiscal stability. Today, our debt has been reduced to just above 60 percent of GDP, a dramatic improvement from 133 percent. That is a reduction of more than 70 percentage points, achieved in just four years. The landmark Blue Bond agreement alone lowered our debt by 250 million US dollars while committing 180 million US dollars to marine conservation. In addition, Belize reinforced its reputation as an environmental leader by signing the Maya Forest Protection Pact, a trilateral agreement with Mexico and Guatemala, safeguarding one of the largest remaining tropical forests in Meso-America.

The results are clear. Since 2021, our economy has grown over 30 percent with a growth rate of 8 percent last year alone. Unemployment has fallen to below 3 percent, inflation has remained under 3 percent, and our foreign reserves stand at more than \$1.3 billion US dollars or 4.8 months of Imports.

Belize is not simply in recovery. Belize is in transformation.

Belize’s Economic Roadmap

Our transformation is guided by a clear vision built on three pillars: inclusive growth, resilience, and competitiveness.

- Since 2020, Belize have created well over 44,000 thousand jobs, over 20,000 in the BPO sector alone.
- Among them, jobs created in the MSMEs sector, supported by the Ministry of Investment, BELTRAIDE, and partners such as the IDB, and the Government of Taiwan.
- Our MSME’s remain the backbone of our economy, employing 70 percent of Belizeans and driving entrepreneurship.
- With leadership from the Ministries of Sustainable Development and the Blue Economy, Belize has adopted the Blue Economy and Sustainable Development Framework.
- The Sustainable Livelihood Project is strengthening rural communities, while we continue to advance our commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Already, 54 percent of Belize’s electricity comes from renewable sources.
- Through the E-Governance and Digitalization Unit and guided by the National Digital Agenda 2022–2025, Belize is delivering online services for trade, taxation, and licensing.

At the same time, we are strengthening our investment promotion and aftercare support, aligned with Belize’s Country Brand Strategy, to ensure investors find consistency and confidence when choosing Belize. And we have already started with our modern and secure National ID which will be launched shortly. Together, these efforts form the Belize Investment and Business Climate Action Plan, a roadmap to ensure that Belize remains a transparent, competitive, and investor-ready destination.

Sectors with High Potential

Led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, Agriculture and agro-processing remain one of Belize’s most dynamic pillars, contributing 10 percent of GDP and 15 percent of national exports. Beyond traditional crops like sugar, citrus, and bananas, the focus is shifting to higher-value opportunities. With rising regional and international demand, Belize is today competitive in cacao-to-chocolate processing, seafood packaging, coconut oils, and fresh fruit products. Modernization of farming practices and logistics is already underway, creating



space for local and international investors to scale production and tap into niche export markets.

The tourism industry continues to drive the economy, representing around 40 percent of GDP. In July alone, Belize welcomed a record 47,448 overnight visitors, signaling strong post-pandemic recovery and renewed growth. The sector is diversifying, moving beyond eco-tourism to embrace cultural, heritage, and wellness tourism.

In parallel, Belize is building its creative economy under the Ministry of Culture. Through the Orange Economy framework, Belizean artists, designers, and musicians are accessing international platforms. Most recently showcased at EXPO Japan 2025, Belizean creativity and talent shined proudly, representing the country’s innovation and cultural wealth.

Guided by the Ministry of Energy, Belize has already achieved 54 percent renewable electricity generation, primarily from hydro, biomass, and solar. The national goal is 75 percent renewables by 2030. This presents clear investment opportunities in solar farms, biomass projects, microgrids, and energy efficiency technologies. Belize’s transition positions it not only as a regional leader in sustainability but also as a country offering long-term stability and competitive energy costs for industry.

The blue economy, championed by the Ministry of Blue Economy, is another frontier. Fisheries and aquaculture already generate over 50 million US dollars annually, with shrimp, lobster, and seaweed leading the way. This year, Belize celebrated the first shipment of farmed shrimp to Taiwan, reopening a high-value export market and proving the global competitiveness of Belize’s seafood. The government is advancing a national Blue Economy Roadmap that encourages private-sector participation in aquaculture, mariculture, marine biotechnology, and sustainable seafood exports.

In Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and global digital services, the Ministry of Investment, BELTRAIDE and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology are positioning Belize as a nearshore destination for global outsourcing. With an English-speaking, digitally skilled workforce, over 20,000 Belizeans are already employed in outsourcing and customer service centers. The sector is now moving up the value chain into fintech, e-commerce, digital marketing, and software services, supported by workforce training programs and private investment.

Finally, Belize’s logistics and infrastructure sector is leveraging the country’s unique geographic advantage as a bridge between CARICOM, Central America, and Mexico. Investments are underway in major highways, ports, and trade corridors, including the rehabilitation of the George Price Highway and the upgrading of other major thoroughfares.

Let me tell you about two exciting new developments. In December 2023, our government bought over the Port of Belize. Cabinet approved a project of 410 million US dollars to build the first ever cruise port and a modern container port in Belize City!

We are also excited about current discussions with Mexico and Guatemala to connect Tren Maya in Mexico to Guatemala via the Port of Belize. This will be transformative and will not only provide passenger services but also container services for Belize, Mexico and Guatemala.

These projects are lowering transport costs, improving connectivity, and making Belize a natural hub for regional trade and logistics.

Reforms to the Business Climate

Ladies and gentlemen, while sectors provide the “what” of Belize’s investment story, reforms provide the “how.” They are the clearest signal that Belize is serious about creating an enabling, transparent, and investor-friendly climate.

Digital Services

We are accelerating the digital transformation of government. Business registration, trade licensing, and tax services are moving fully online. The new platforms will cut processing times dramatically, reducing what once took weeks to be done in days. For investors, this means less bureaucracy, more predictability, and lower costs of doing business.

Simplified Regulations

Through the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry, we have modernized incorporation, insolvency, and business reporting requirements. For entrepreneurs, especially MSMEs, this reduces red tape and levels the playing field. For larger investors, it gives assurance that the legal and regulatory framework meets international standards.

Transparency and Good Governance

We are strengthening the backbone of economic management. The Ministry of Finance has rolled out stronger fiscal rules, procurement re-

form, and modern debt management systems.

These changes reduce corruption risk, improve oversight, and enhance Belize's credit-worthiness, a reassurance for lenders, donors, and private investors alike.

MSME Growth and Formalization

At the same time, Belize knows that growth must be broad-based. MSMEs employ 7 in 10 Belizeans, and they must be able to grow, formalize, and access capital. Through BELTRAIDE's Small Business Development Center (SBDCBelize), and in partnership with financial institutions, thousands of MSMEs have already benefited from training, financing, and mentorship. These are not small wins; they are the foundation of an economy where opportunity is inclusive. Together, these reforms send a clear message: Belize is committed to efficiency, transparency, and predictability for investors. And so, having reformed how business is done within our borders, the question becomes: how do we position Belize beyond our borders? How do we leverage geography, diplomacy, and trade agreements to create opportunity at scale?

Belize's Regional and Global Positioning

This is where our theme — Bridging Markets, Building Resilience — comes to life. Belize is more than a domestic market of 430,000 people. We are a strategic nexus.

- Through CARICOM, we connect 20 million Caribbean consumers.
- Through SICA, we access 50 million Central American consumers.
- Through Mexico, we are tied directly to 130 million people in a G20 economy. That is preferential access to over 200 million consumers.

Trade agreements with Mexico, Central America, CARICOM, and the European Union make Belize an ideal hub for nearshoring, logistics, and sustainable trade. At a time when companies are seeking resilient supply chains and trusted partners, Belize offers both.

And we do so with unique comparative advantages:

- A bilingual, young, and trainable workforce — equally comfortable serving global digital markets or local enterprises.
- Proximity to North America — just a two-hour flight from Miami or Houston, with growing direct connections to major U.S. cities.
- A stable democracy with a tradition of peaceful transitions and rule of law.
- And unmatched natural resources — from fertile land and fresh water to a marine zone ten times larger than our landmass.

These advantages are not theoretical; they are already producing results. This year, Belize achieved a major breakthrough with the first shipment of Belizean farmed shrimp to Taiwan, reopening a high-value export market and demonstrating the competitiveness of our blue economy.

This success proves that when government, private sector, and international partners align, Belizean products can thrive on global shelves. At the same time,

through innovative finance, such as the Blue Bond, now studied as a model worldwide, Belize has shown that a small country can be a bold leader in linking conservation, investment, and debt sustainability. This is the kind of innovation investors can trust: ambitious, responsible, and forward-looking.

Closing – A Direct Invitation

Ladies and gentlemen,
Belize's proposition is clear:

- Natural wealth in agriculture, tourism, marine resources, and renewable energy.
- A skilled, bilingual workforce, with IDB, Taiwan and government programs building the next generation of digital and technical talent.
- A stable democracy, committed to good governance.
- A location that bridges three markets, giving investors access to CARICOM, Central America, and Mexico.
- And above all, a proven ability to deliver — whether through our macroeconomic turnaround, our renewable energy push, our explosion of the BPO sector, or our return to premium export markets like shrimp in Taiwan.

Now let me be clear.

I am well aware of the imminent storm clouds ahead. The days of 12 percent and 8 percent consecutive GDP growth are gone for the foreseeable future. What lies ahead is uncertainty and shifting realities.

Wars continue in Palestine, the Ukraine, global inflation is on the rise once again, climate change is real and wreaking havoc especially on vulnerable low-lying states like Belize.

What I have laid out for you today is a work in progress.

In spite of those storm clouds, we remain optimistic because we are government that is determined to forge ever forward with the building of our young nation.

We will do what we must, and we expect our partners national and international to be a part of this great work.

Therefore, my challenge to you is this:

To our local entrepreneurs: formalize, grow, and seize the opportunities ahead.

To our diaspora: bring home your knowledge, capital, and networks.

To our international partners: join us in this transformation.

Together, let's bridge markets, build resilience, and secure a prosperous future for Belize.

Let's forge forward together.

Welcome to Opportunity!

Welcome to Belize!

Welcome Home!

I thank you.



As Belize approaches its 227th Anniversary
of the Battle of St. George's Caye and
44 years of Independence,
Benny's wishes all Belizeans
a Safe and Happy

*September
Celebrations!*



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School Year 2025-2026 Underway

Parents & Children Ready

Congratulations go out to these examples below and all other school openings, inaugurations and, in general, the return back to another school year. The People's United Party and the government recognizes the TREMENDOUS effort placed by children, parents, school administrations, teachers and other stakeholders. The government has itself placed unprecedented resources into the EDUCATION of Belize at all levels, from Pre-school to the University of Belize. As the teachers who will be receiving a pay raise and other will attest to there is a lot more that can be done and government is always looking to improve the dispensation of learning.

As the children place their hearts into their new teachers and schoolbags and haircuts, the government and its representatives try to assist at all these levels. Thanks again parents for that huge output to send our children back to school. The government cannot do it alone; Belize needs its parents and its schools and its teachers...all for the future engrained in our children and their lives.

Include Me 2 Preschool

We proudly celebrate the inauguration and ribbon-cutting ceremony of Include Me 2 Preschool, a true beacon of hope, love, and opportunity for children on the autism spectrum.

The Honorable Minister Andre Perez was deeply moved by this inspiring educational initiative led by the founders, especially by the heartfelt vision and passion shared by Mrs. Kathleen Aguilar during the ceremony. He applauds the Aguilar family for their dedication and commitment to creating a space where every child is embraced, empowered, and given the chance to thrive in their own unique way.

This preschool is much more than a place of learning; it stands as a powerful symbol of acceptance and inclusivity, paving the way for a brighter, more compassionate future for our children and our community.

The Minister extends his warmest wishes for continued success and growth to IncludeMe2 Preschool and all those involved in this remarkable journey. (BRS post)

Expansion in Caye Caulker

A Cool and Comfortable Learning Environment!

The Honourable Minister Hon. Andre Perez, Area Representative for Belize Rural South, continues his commitment to enhancing education by extending his generous donation of fans to the classrooms at Caye Caulker Quality Child Friendly School! Following the successful distribution of fans to San Pedro R.C. School, Holy Cross Anglican, and New Horizon SDA School, this thoughtful gesture now reaches even more students, helping them beat the record-breaking heat and focus better on their

studies in a cooler, more comfortable environment.



Minister Perez recognizes the importance of creating positive and supportive learning spaces where every child can thrive. By ensuring that classrooms are equipped to handle the rising temperatures, he is paving the way for greater concentration, engagement, and academic success.

As the new school year unfolds, Hon. Andre Perez sends his warmest wishes to all students across Belize Rural South. May this year be filled with exciting opportunities, growth, and achievement!

Here's to a vibrant and productive school year for all! (post)

A large, festive graphic celebrating the start of September. It features the Belize national flag waving in the center, surrounded by red and blue balloons and blue streamers. Below the flag, the words 'HAPPY SEPTEMBER' are written in large, bold, blue and red letters. A toucan bird is perched on a branch to the right. At the bottom, there is a message: 'Wishing all Belizeans joy, unity, and a little luck this month!' followed by the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. logo, which includes a stylized wheel and the text 'BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.' and 'Fi WE Boledol'.

FREE COMMUNITY
CHECK UP



The Belize City Council, alongside Hon. Henry Charles Usher and the Ministry of Health & Wellness, hosted a FREE community check-up right here in Belize City.



From blood pressure and glucose checks to health and dietary counseling, the Fort George and other city residents accessed services that help us build a healthier Belize City together.

Delivering these health fairs is part of the 2024–2027 manifesto commitment to put people first and invest in community well-being.



The Belize City Council and the Hon. Henry Charles extends many thanks to their partners for supporting as they continue promoting healthier lifestyles for all Belize City residents.



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Court of Appeal Reverses High Court \$2.1 Million Judgment Against GOB

Belmopan, September 1, 2025.

The Attorney General's Ministry is pleased to announce that, through the efforts of retained Senior Counsel and our own Head of Litigation, the people and the Government of Belize have been saved from having to pay out millions of dollars.

The Court of Appeal handed down a landmark decision in the case of Rudolph Ramirez & Anor against the Attorney General on Friday, August 29, 2025. This reversed a \$2.1 million liability imposed on the Government of Belize by the High Court in January 2024 and clarified the law on an important matter: what happens when the Government issues title to the same land to more than one person.

This is a situation that has bedevilled the sale of national lands, where, innocently or otherwise, duplication of titles occurs. When this occurs, based on previous decisions of the Court of Appeal, the State must pay one of the persons the market value of the land. This is usually many times greater than what was originally paid as the purchase price to the Government.

The case of Andre Vega, which the Government was bound to follow, graphically illustrates this. As far back as 1988, GOB sold 2.28 acres of national land near the mouth of the Belize River to a private citizen (Carlton Russell). That meant that the land was no longer national land but private land. However, in 2013, GOB sold one acre of this private land to Hilmar Alamilla, who in turn sold it to Andre Vega for \$15,000. When it was discovered that the title to the land had been sold to Russell, the Government entered into a settlement agreement with Vega in the sum of \$400,000, the market value of the one acre he bought from Alamilla. This compensation agreement was upheld by the Court of Appeal in April 2022, on the basis that Vega was a legitimate purchaser of the land and had no knowledge that the land had been previously sold by GOB twenty-five years ago. Based on this decision, GOB has paid substantial damages to other landowners who held duplicate titles issued erroneously by the Government, sometimes collusively.

In the case of Ramirez, in 2008, the Government inadvertently sold 14.76 acres of land on Cats Caye in the Stann Creek District to Mr. Rudolph Ramirez, who, in turn, sold it to Mr. Julius Zabaneh. It was thought at the time that the land was still national and undeveloped. However, three years earlier, the land had been sold by the Government to someone else.

In 2021, Ramirez and Zabaneh (the claimants) sued the Government for \$8,900,000 in compensation as the market value of the 14.76 acres of land. The Government's valuation differed.

In the trial before the High Court, the parties and the Court felt bound by the Andre Vega decision. The High Court therefore agreed with the claimants that GOB did not have a vi-

able defence to the claim and all that the court should be concerned with was how much compensation should be paid to them. The High Court, in making the award of compensation, accepted the valuation of the Government as more probable with adjustments and awarded the claimants \$2,087,936.28.

The claimants, however, appealed the award to the Court of Appeal on a number of bases, including that the 2.1 million dollars award was insufficient. This being a matter with myriad implications, including substantial financial ones, the Government retained outside counsel to work on this appeal.

The Government successfully argued that, based on the evidence in the trial, the claimants knew that when the title was reissued in 2019, the Government did not own the land and therefore this should bar them from receiving any compensation.

The Court of Appeal agreed, explaining:

"For the grant of land which was clearly no longer national land and thus not in the Minister's power to convey, the State (and by extension, taxpayers of Belize) would be liable to repay a party who knew of the true state of affairs, millions of dollars in damages. In my opinion, no procedural rule could justify or should be allowed to enable such a perverse outcome." [93]

In relation to its previous Vega decision, the Court of Appeal clarified that that case should not be used

as one of general application, explaining:

"In all fairness, the trial judge presumably felt bound by this court's decision in Vega, but as demonstrated above, this decision must be confined to its narrow facts in which the subsequent grantee purportedly had no knowledge of the earlier [grant]" [68].

With this decision, the Government, on behalf of the people of Belize, can now push back and fight these types of claims with vigour.

The Government of Belize would like to thank Senior Counsel Eamon Courtenay and Assistant Solicitor General Samantha Matute, who worked on this important case for the nation.

Ends

Curbing the Cost of Living

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation

For

Mr. Kirk Barnes

**For A Private Residential Development on Deep Blue Water Caye,
South Water Caye Marine Reserve,
Stann Creek District**

The General Public is hereby informed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the proposed construction of a private residential development on Deep Blue Water Caye, located within the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Stann Creek District, has been submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by Mr. Kirk Barnes. The EIA report was prepared by Tunich-Nah Consultants & Engineering. While the EIA report is a technical document, it contains an executive summary that provides an overview of the project and its potential environmental impacts. The report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby advised that the EIA report is available for public review, free of charge, from September 5th, 2025, to October 2nd, 2025 (Monday-Friday) during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the following locations:

1. Hopkins Community Library, Hopkins Village
2. Placencia Community Center, Placencia Village
3. Seine Bight Community Center, Seine Bight Village
4. Independence Community Center, Independence Village
5. The DOE's office at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City

The EIA report is also available on the DOE's website at the link: https://doe.gov.bz/?post_type=wpdmpro&p=17052&preview=true. The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before October 2nd, 2025, to the DOE at 7552, Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan, or via email to envirodept@environment.gov.bz or ciaunit@environment.gov.bz and link: <https://forms.gle/aHEDuc7fUro8tEsp8>.

Kindly be informed that a hybrid (in-person and virtual) public consultation on the EIA report will be held on September 25th, 2025, commencing at 6:00 pm. The in-person consultation will be held at the Hopkins HelpAge Center, in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District. An online link will be provided on the DOE's Facebook page near the date for those who will participate virtually. The consultation will be streamed live via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook page.

The general public is invited to attend in person or participate online, to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, and express concerns to the DOE and the developer with regards to this project.

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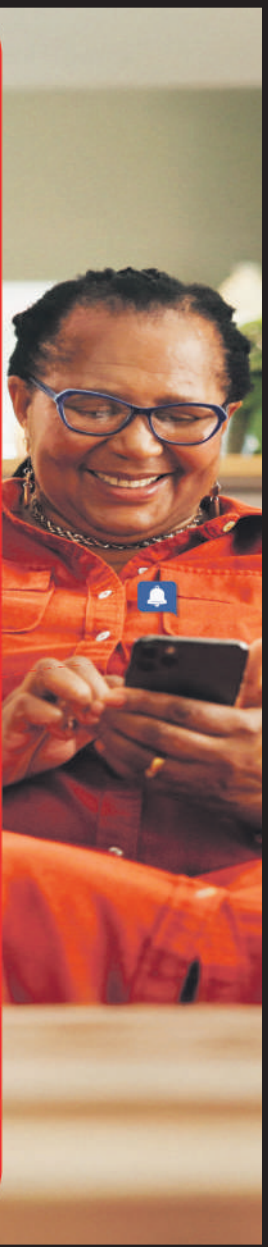
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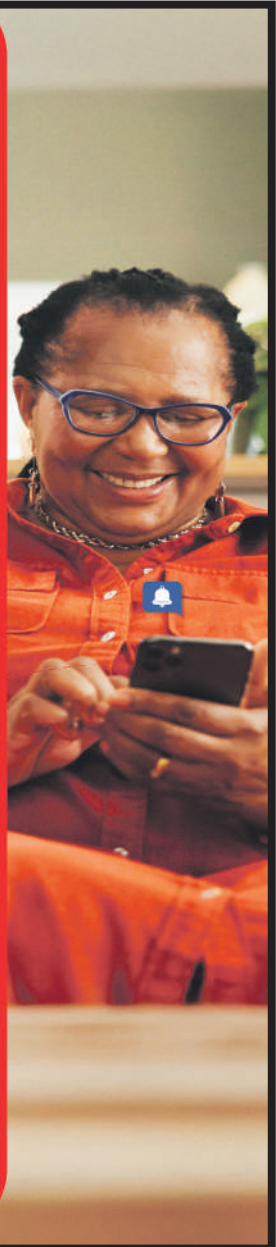
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August 27, 2025



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the NINETEENTH Annual General Meeting (the “**Meeting**”) of Belize Telemedia Limited (the “**Company**”) will be held on **Thursday, the 18th day of September 2025**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. where the following business will be transacted, viz.:

- 1. To receive and consider the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2025.
- 2. To consider and declare a dividend for the period ended 31st of March 2025.
- 3. To elect a “Publicly Elected Director” (see notes attached).
- 4. To appoint Auditors for the 2025 to 2026 fiscal year and authorize the Board to agree on their remuneration.

Please be informed that the Company will provide virtual access to the Meeting for Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies to join the Meeting virtually. Shareholders and duly authorized Proxies who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting in this manner must pre-register at **www.livedigi.com/agm-2025** no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **16th of September 2025**. Upon registration, Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will receive an email with further instructions and information. Shareholders and the duly authorized Proxies will only be able to access the Meeting virtually using a laptop or desktop computer. This access will form part of the formal proceedings of the Meeting. Shareholders will be able to access the Report of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st of March 2025 via the BTL’s official Digi Website (**www.livedigi.com**).

Please be reminded that a member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a Proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A Proxy need not be a member of the company. Please note that Mr. Eric Eusey (Publicly Elected Director and member) has indicated his willingness to act as proxy on your behalf and we urge you to appoint him as proxy as noted above. Kindly submit your proxy form to the registered office of the Company at the Esquivel Telecom Center, #1 Saint Thomas Street, Belize City, Belize no later than 10:00 a.m. on or before **16th of September 2025**.

For more information contact us at prdept@livedigi.com.

Back to School 2025

PM Briceño, OW Central & Town Council



Hon. Chebat, Cayo North



Hon. Thea, UWG, BYM, Czl Bay



Hon. Monchi, OW North



Punta Gorda Town Council



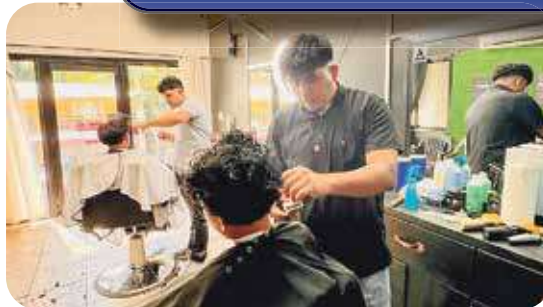
Hon. Perez & San Pedro Town Council



Hon. Zabaneh, Dangriga



ALL FOR planBelize 2.0 EDUCATION



NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Calendar of Events 2025

BELIZE CITY

JULY

- 12 **Carnival 50TH Anniversary Gala**
Princess Belize City
7PM PAID
- 31 **Eve of Emancipation Service**
Queen Street Baptist Church
10PM FREE

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day Official Ceremony**
Government House
9AM
- Ebo Town Festival**
Isaiah Morder Square
11AM FREE
- 2 **Miss Carnival Pageant**
Belize City Civic Centre
7PM PAID
- 15 **AfroCaribbean Sound Concert**
Bliss Centre for the Performing Art
7:30PM
- 23 **Carnival King & Queen Competition**
Belize City Civic Centre
7PM
- 24 **Queen of the Bay Sashing Ceremony**
Biltmore Plaza Hotel
6PM FREE
- 29 **Sir Barry's Belikin Bash**
Marion Jones Sporting Complex
6PM PAID
- 30 **Queen of the Bay Pageant**
Belize City Civic Centre
7PM PAID

BELMOPAN

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 30 **September Celebrations Night Market**
Sir George Brown Field
6PM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
BNE Flag Roundabout
5:45AM FREE
- 6 **Cultural Culinary Fest**
Independence Park
- 9 **Fire Engine Parade**
Principal Streets of Belmopan
7PM FREE

SAN IGNACIO & SANTA ELENA

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 8 **Night Market Pop Up Shop**
Baptist Church
FREE
- End of Summer: Western Explosion**
Victor Galvez Stadium
Date and Time TBA
- 13 **Back To School Drive**
Venue and Time TBA
FREE
- 17 **Movie Night**
RotaryPark(Santa Elena)
7PM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
TownHall
6AM
- 5 **Senior Citizen's Day**
Octavia Waight Centre
12PM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
Flag Monument
6AM FREE
- 1 **Carnival Mas Camp Visits**
Respective Mas Camps
6PM FREE
- 3 **Creative and Cultural Excellence Awards**
House of Culture
2PM
- 4 **Francis Reneau Concert Series**
Timeless Tunes, R&B Edition
Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts
8PM PAID
- 12 **Creative Youth Ideas Summit**
House of Culture
10AM
- 5 **Empire Ent. Street Fete**
MarionJonesSportingComplexCar Park
9PM PAID
- 6 **Carnival Jouvert**
Startsat Belcan Bridge then through Principal Streets of Belize City
4AM
- Carnival Road March**
Commencing at the Memorial Park, up Marine Parade, unto Barrack Road, unto Princess Margaret Drive, ending at the Marion Jones Sporting Complex
2PM
- 7 **6th Annual Martins Community Fest**
Mahogany Street
10AM FREE
- 8 **16th Annual Evening of Patriotic Songs and Poems**
Wesley Church
7PM

- 9 **Fire Engine Parade**
Principal Streets of Belize City
7PM FREE
- 10 **Official Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye**
Government House
9AM
- St. George's Caye Day 10th Parade**
Principal Streets of Belize City
After Official Ceremony
- Belize City Council 10th Bram**
Lord Rhaburn Plaza
11AMFREE
- 11 **OC501Belize 4th Annual Fundraiser**
Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts
8PM PAID
- 13 **Dinner Dance 2025**
Old Belize Pavilion
7PM PAID
- Pan Yaad**
Government House Compound
8PM PAID
- 13 **Expo Belize Market Place**
Marion Jones Sporting Complex
9AM PAID
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
7PM Venue TBA
- Annual BTB September Criterion Cycling Classic**
Albert and Regent Streets
10AM
- 18 **Launch of the Belize National Orchestra**
Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts
7PM
- 17 **Tribute to Belizean Patriots**
Venue TBA
7:30PM

- 19 **National Service Day Wreath Laying Ceremony**
Lord Ridge Cemetery
10AM FREE
- National School Children's Rally**
Belize City Civic Centre
9AMFREE
- 20 **11th Annual Soca & Culture Fest**
Belize City Civic Centre
9PM PAID
- Official Flag Raising Ceremony**
Memorial Park
10PM FREE
- 21 **Official Ceremony for the 44th Anniversary of Belize's Independence**
Battlefield Park
9AM
- Uniform and Citizen's Parade**
Principal Streets of Belize City
AFTER CEREMONY
- 21st Belize City Bash**
Albert and Regent Streets
1PM-9PM FREE



STRONGER TOGETHER

RIISING FOREVER

ORANGE WALK

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 30 **Fiesta FM Anniversary**
Fort Cairns Market
10AM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day FlagRaising Ceremony**
TownHall
6AM
- 9 **Fire Engine Parade and Block Party**
Central Park
7PM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 10 **10K Run**
TownHall
5:30AM
- Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye**
TownHall
3PM
- 11 **Masters of the Road**
San Estevan Road
3:30PM FREE
- 12 **Youth Concert**
Fort Cairns
2PM FREE

BENQUE VIEJO

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 30 **Pageant Night - Queen of the Bay, Ms Antorcha, Ms Independence**
Cancha Marshalleck
7PM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day FlagRaising Ceremony**
George Price Boulevard
6AM
- 9 **Fire Engine Parade**
PrincipalStreetsofBenque Viejo
- 10 **Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye, Crowning of the Queen and Cultural Presentations**
Cancha Marshalleck
7PM
- 13 **Mural Unveiling and Pre-Independence Expo**
Market Square, Cancha Marshalleck
TIME
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
Venue and Time TBA

COROZAL

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 29 **Annual Maya Wedding Re-enactment**
Santa Rita Archaeological Site 7PM
- 30 **3rd Annual Coconut & Corn Festival**
Santa Rita Archaeological Site 7PM

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **National Flag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
Central Park 7PM
- 5 **Miss Independence Designate Presentation and Dance**
In Front of Town Hall
7PM
- 6 **Carnival King & Queen Competition and Beach Bash**
Chactemal Bayside Plaza
- 9 **Fire Engine Parade**
Principal Streets of Corozal
7PM
- 10 **Parade for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye**
Principal Streets of Corozal

SAN PEDRO

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **National Flag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
Central Park
6AM
- 3 **Belize Investment Summit 2025 'Bridging Markets, Building Resilience'**
Sunset Caribe
ALL DAY
- 9 **School Talent Show Street Fest**
Central Park
7PM

DANGRIGA

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day Flag Raising Ceremony**
Venue
6AM
- 9 **Fire Engine Parade**
PrincipalStreetsofDangriga 7PM

PUNTA GORDA

AUGUST

- 1 **Emancipation Day**
- 30 **Back to School Drive**
TownHall
9AM FREE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NationalFlag Day FlagRaising Ceremony**
PG Welcome Plaza
6AM
- 4 **Art Day**
Central Park
9AM FREE
- 5 **World Literacy Day**
Punta Gorda Public Library
9AM FREE
- 9 **UB Panel Discussion**
University of Belize Toledo Campus
10AM FREE
- Fire Engine Parade**
Principal Streets of Punta Gorda
7PM
- 10 **Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye**
Central Park
2PM 3PM
- Carnival**
PrincipalStreets of Punta Gorda

- 13 **Rock Concert/Food Truck Fest**
Fort Cairns Market Plaza
7PM FREE
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
Fort Cairns
ALL DAY
- 19 **National School Children's Rally**
Central Park
9AM
- National Service Day and Awards to Community Leaders**
La Immaculada Church
6PM FREE
- 20 **J'ouvert, Flag Raising Ceremony and Fireworks Display and Torch Run**
Administration Building
9PM FREE
- 21 **Ceremony for the 44th Anniversary of Belize's Independence**
Central Park
2PM
- Citizen's Parade and Block Party**
After Ceremony
- 28 **Dia de la Biblia Parade**
Principal Streets
ALL DAY

- 10 **Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye, Crowning of the Queen and Cultural Presentations**
Cancha Marshalleck
7PM
- 13 **Mural Unveiling and Pre-Independence Expo**
Market Square, Cancha Marshalleck
TIME
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
Venue and Time TBA

- 12 **Wet Fete**
ChactemalBayside Plaza
7PM
- 13 **J'ouvert**
PrincipalStreets of Corozal
2AM
- MalMal Carnival Edition Artisan Market**
Central Park
1PM
- Carnival Road March**
Principal Streets of Corozal
4PM
- Carnival Road March After Party**
Chactemal Bayside Plaza

- 10 **Ceremony for the 227th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye**
Central Park
- 10 **Uniform Parade**
Central Park
- 13 **Centro America Independence Event**
Saca Chispas
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**

- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
Venue and Time TBA
- 18 **Karaoke Night**
- 19 **National Service Day National School Children's Rally**
BTL Park
9AM

- 12 **Children's Talent Show**
Central Park
9AM FREE
- 14 **National Day of Prayer**
Central Park
6AM FREE
- 17 **Senior Citizen's Day**
TownHall
ALL DAY
- 18 **Appreciation Night**
TownHall
6PM
- 19 **National Service Day**
Strategic areas of Punta Gorda
ALL DAY

- National School Children's Rally**
Central Park
9AM
- 20 **Torch Run**
DumpJunction to Central Park
10PM
- Flag Raising Ceremony, Fireworks Display and Dance**
Central Park
11PM
- 21 **Ceremony for the 44th Anniversary of Belize's Independence and Citizen's Parade**
Central Park
9AM

Belize Hosts Convention of Caribbean Demography Experts Regional Workshop on Population Estimates and Projections

18 August 2025 – Forty-four participants from 14 Caribbean countries, including Belize, actively engaged in a four-day regional workshop on population estimates and projections held from 18–21 August 2025 in Belize City. Organized by the United Nations Population Fund Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean (UNFPA SROC) and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (ECLAC-CELADE), the training brought together demography practitioners and technicians from the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) and other National Statistical Offices (NSOs) across the Caribbean region to strengthen their skills in producing accurate and policy-relevant population projections. This workshop marked a key milestone in advancing the goals of the Enabling of Belize's Statistical System (EBSS) project, which is being implemented from 2024 to 2027 with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The project supports Belize through the SIB as the main beneficiary and implementing partner in modernizing and strengthening its statistical systems and serves as a model for broader capacity-building efforts across the Caribbean.

The official opening, held on 18 August, was attended by the organizers, UNFPA SROC, ECLAC, and KOICA, government officials, other UN agencies, and participants from various NSOs across the Caribbean region. Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, emphasized how accurate data informs our strategic planning, resource allocation, and policy development.

In her welcome address, Ms. Tisa Grant, Liaison Specialist/Head of Office for UNFPA in Belize, outlined UNFPA's commitment to supporting national statistical systems. "Interventions such as UNFPA's technical support to censuses and demographic analysis across the Caribbean have already shown their value: from improving census planning and cartography, to strengthening national capacity in projections, to

ensuring that census data are turned into usable intelligence for programming, policy, and emergency response. This is the essence of our mandate: to make data work for people, so that no one is left behind."

Also speaking at the opening, Mr. Simone Cecchini, Director, CELADE-Population Division, ECLAC, highlighted the long-standing collaboration between ECLAC and Caribbean NSOs. "When we provide technical assistance, our main goal is to leave capacity installed within countries. We are convinced that holding this regional workshop is an excellent additional opportunity to strengthen teams and build capacity to lead the process of reviewing estimates and projections with greater autonomy and solid technical foundations, ensuring continuity in the production and analysis of demographic statistics in the country."

Mrs. Diana Castillo-Trejo, Director-General of the Statistical Institute of Belize, shared the successes of the EBSS project and activities in progress under this initiative. Activities in-

clude the development of legislation for the governance of the National Statistical System, a quarterly training program to be delivered by SIB for NSS agencies, and a quality assurance framework for the SIB and NSS.

Remarks delivered by Ms. Sohui Cho, Country Director of KOICA in El Salvador, and Halim Brizan, Director of Regional Statistics CARICOM Secretariat, emphasized the importance of knowledge-sharing and the need for high-quality data to support comprehensive research and robust analysis that will inform policy development that responds effectively to our demographic realities.

Over the course of the workshop, participants were trained in the application of the Cohort Demographic Components Model, a globally recognized method for projecting population by age and sex, taking into account fertility, mortality, and international migration trends.

Sessions combined theoretical instruction

with practical, hands-on exercises using both sample datasets and national data brought by participants. Core topics included the evaluation of census and vital statistics data, estimation and projection of fertility and mortality, construction of life tables, demographic reconciliation, and alternative methods for population modeling. The workshop concluded with group presentations in which participants applied their learning to real-world data scenarios.

The event also provided an important platform for regional collaboration and peer exchange, allowing countries to share challenges and best practices in demographic modeling. Participants highlighted the value of continued technical support and regional cooperation in enhancing the quality and usefulness of population statistics.

UNFPA, through its Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, continues to work closely with governments to implement censuses, produce vital demographic data, and promote the use of data for policy and planning. ECLAC-CELADE, with a long-standing history of providing technical training in demographic analysis throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, brought essential expertise to the design and delivery of the training. (release)



Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

DON'T FORGET TO
WASH YOUR
HANDS

1

WET HANDS
WITH WATER

2

APPLY PLENTY
OF SOAP

3

RUB HANDS
TOGETHER

4

RUB BETWEEN
FINGERS

5

CLEAN UNDER
FINGERNAILS

6

RINSE HANDS
WITH WATER

7

DRY HANDS
WITH TOWEL

8

USE TOWEL TO
TURN OFF FAUCET

PlanBelize 2.0

Mins. Habet and Chebat, Sustainable Development & Climate Change, & Public Utilities



Successful National Climate Change Week Events

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez & Corozal Bay Marshalls



Prepping for the grand September Celebrations

Hon. Henry Usher, Fort George w/ Belize City Council



Health Check Up Event

Hon. Louis Zabaneh, Dangriga



At Multipurpose Complex construction site

Benque Town Council



Works continue on streets

Min. Kevin Bernard, Health and Wellness



Ambulance for Northern Regional Hospital

Min. Julius Espat, CS, MIDH



Important Signage Maintenance

Hon. Osmond Martinez, Toledo East



At Opening of new Digital Connect in PG

BACK TO SCHOOL



Hon. Cervantes, Orange Walk North



Cementing Streets w/ PG Town Council



San Isidro potable water system installed (Rural Transformation)



San Pedro Town Council



Hon. Balona Cayo Central



PG Town Council



International Visitor Leadership Program: *Women in Politics & Civic Society*



Councillor Joesie Castillo has proudly completed three transformative weeks in the International Visitor Leadership Program: Women in Politics & Civic Society. Alongside 21 incredible women leaders from across the world including parliamentarians, mayors, advisors, and changemakers, Joesie built bridges of friendship, shared experiences, and strengthened ties that transcend borders.

From Argentina to Ukraine, South Africa to Japan , and beyond, these women came together to exchange ideas, confront challenges, and inspire one another with a shared commitment to leadership and service.

For Belize, Joesie brought not only her voice but also the hopes and resilience of her community proving once again that our little country has a powerful role on the global stage.

A heartfelt thank you to the U.S. Embassy Belize for selecting Councillor Joesie to represent our country. She returns home with lifelong connections, renewed vision, and a global sisterhood of leaders.

Here's to women in leadership, to building stronger societies, and to keeping these international bonds alive! (OWTC post)

Maya Wedding Re-enactment Santa Rita Archaeological Site



The Belize Tourism Industry Association hosted the Maya Wedding Re-enactment at the Santa Rita Archaeological Site in Corozal. The evening began with a ritual ceremony led by Mr. Herminio Novelo, followed by the National Anthem and a prayer by students of Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College.

The program continued with addresses from Mr. Efren Perez, National President of the Belize Tourism Industry Association; Mr. Josue Carballo, Chief Tourism Officer at the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations; and Mayor Rigoberto Vellos of the Corozal Town Council.

Guests also enjoyed an informative presentation on the history of Santa Rita by Ms. Vivian Dominguez of Galen University. Cultural highlights featured performances by Ballet Folklórico de Quin-



tana Roo, the ESTM Ambassador Marching Band Dancers, and a demonstration of the traditional Maya ball game by BHSA Ibin K'aan. Attendees were also treated to traditional refreshments, including atole and tamales, which added flavor and authenticity to the celebration.

The evening concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Charles Rublee, Chairman of the BTIA Corozal Chapter, bringing the event to a meaningful close. (post)

CANDLELIGHT

For World Suicide Prevention Day

Let us all light a candle to help spread awareness & start the conversation about suicide

When

7:45pm - 8:00pm

September 10th, 2025 - Wednesday

Where

Western Regional Hospital Compound - by the security booth

Please bring your own candle as limited supply will be available

If you cant make it - light a candle near a window at home



First National Climate Finance Forum

"Adaptation and Resilience."



September 1, 2025 - The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Economic Transformation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management, hosted Belize's first National Climate Finance Forum at the Grand Resort & Residences in Belize City, under the theme "Adaptation and Resilience." The Climate Finance Forum was convened in conjunction with **Belize Climate Week**, held from August 25 to 29, 2025.

The Forum brought together senior government officials, international development partners, multilateral and bilateral agencies, private sector representatives, academia, and civil society. Participants engaged in substantive discussions on aligning climate finance with Belize's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), identifying financing gaps, and charting pathways for programmatic approaches to unlock larger-scale, multi-year climate funding.



Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, emphasized in his opening remarks that climate finance can no longer be treated as peripheral to national development, but must instead form a central pillar of Belize's financial landscape. He highlighted that Belize's NDC 3.0 identifies a financing gap of US\$455 million for mitigation and US\$480.3 million for adaptation over the next 10 years, underscoring the urgency of mobilizing resources at scale. He stated, "Our task now is to seize opportunities—optimizing our significant carbon asset base, pursuing blended climate finance, and transitioning from single projects to programmatic approaches that can deliver transformative change. This requires not only fiscal innovation but also strong partnerships with institutions like the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Global Environmental Facility."

Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister

of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation, drew attention to the economic realities already being felt in Belize. He underscored the vulnerabilities of Belize's key sectors: agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and infrastructure, all of which are increasingly affected by climate extremes. Minister Martinez concluded by calling on all stakeholders to support the Climate Finance Unit and partner institutions in accelerating action. *"If we fail to align our development strategies with the realities of climate change, today's villages and businesses may become tomorrow's climate casualties. Our task is to ensure the story of our people is not one of loss, but one of resilience and opportunity,"* he said.

Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management, reminded participants that Belize has contributed little to global emissions yet remains on the frontline of climate impacts. He stressed the urgency of mobilizing partnerships and finance to safeguard Belize's future, stating, *"Belize has shown leadership through its Blue Bond, its bagasse-to-energy project, and its comprehensive NDC, but we cannot achieve our ambitions alone. We need partnerships that match our ambition; financing that matches our needs; and solidarity that recognizes Belize's frontline role. By the end of today, let us leave with a clearer roadmap, a shared understanding of where finance can have the greatest impact, and a renewed commitment to work together."*

The National Climate Finance Forum featured high-level panel discussions on aligning climate finance with Belize's adaptation targets, unlocking access to international funds, and designing the next generation of bankable climate projects.

The Forum concluded with strong commitments from both government and development partners to continue expanding Belize's access to concessional finance, leveraging innovative instruments such as green bonds, resilience bonds, and carbon asset financing, while strengthening institutions to better implement large-scale climate programs. (Release)

LETTER TO THE Editor



Patriotism in the Heart of Belize

Dear Editor,

As we celebrate another Belizean September, I find myself reflecting on what patriotism truly means to me. Patriotism is not just about waving a flag or singing our anthem—it is about the love and responsibility we carry for our country every single day.

To me, patriotism is seen in the way we look out for our neighbors, support local farmers, teachers, and small businesses, and respect the diversity that makes Belize unique. It is choosing unity over division, understanding that whether we are from Corozal, Cayo, Belize, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, or Toledo, we are one people bound by a common heritage and a shared future.

Patriotism also means holding our leaders accountable while contributing positively to our communities. It is not enough to criticize; true patriotism requires us to be part of the solution—whether by volunteering, mentoring our youth, or simply practicing kindness.

As a Belizean, I take pride in our struggles and victories, knowing that each generation has a duty to protect and build on what was fought for before us. Patriotism, therefore, is an action—it is service, sacrifice, and above all, hope.

This September, let us not only celebrate with parades and music but also commit ourselves to living patriotically, and ensuring that Belize continues to rise, stronger together, for generations to come.

Respectfully,
T Smith

Belize Achieves Major Milestone: U.S. NOAA Grants Comparability Finding for All Belizean Fisheries

Belmopan, September 3, 2025 - The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC) is pleased to announce that the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has issued a comparability finding for all of Belize's fisheries listed on the List of Foreign Fisheries.

This historic achievement means that **all Belizean fisheries are recognized as comparable to U.S. standards under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Import Provisions**, allowing Belize to continue exporting fish and fish products to the United States beyond January 1, 2026. The determination is valid through December 31, 2029, unless otherwise notified by NOAA Fisheries.

Belize's application was the culmination of a rigorous process that began in 2020 and required extensive consultations, technical reviews, and demonstrated compliance with marine mammal protection standards.

NOAA's review recognized that Belize:

- Prohibits the intentional killing or injury of marine mammals through legislation such as the Wildlife Protection Act (2014) and Fisheries Resources Act (2020).
- Requires strict monitoring and oversight of fishing vessels, including 100% vessel logbook coverage, 100% dockside inspections, and an observer program.
- Implements reporting requirements for all marine mammal mortalities and serious injuries.
- Bans the use of high seas gillnets and aligns with U.S. standards by operating under international agreements such as ICCAT and IATTC.

This milestone reaffirms Belize's commitment to sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation. It ensures continued access to one of the most important export markets, demonstrating that Belize's regulatory framework meets the highest international

standards.

The Ministry extends its gratitude to the Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, the Belize Fisheries Department, and all partners who contributed to this successful outcome. Belize remains committed to strengthening its efforts to minimize the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals associated with commercial fishing activities.

For more information on NOAA Fisheries' Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions, please visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foreign/marine-mammal-protection/noaa-fisheries-establishes-international-marine-mammal-bycatch-criteria-us-imports> (release)



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ELIMINATION OF THE RECOMMENDER ON THE PASSPORT APPLICATION

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

www.immigration.gov.bz

Corozal Bay Marshalls Beam Our Patriotism

A dream has finally become reality—the beautification of our Median!

With September Celebrations just around the corner, the Entire MARSHALLS TEAM, alongside Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez and our President Josue Perez, proudly worked hand in hand to bring this vision to life for you, our beloved Corozaleños. (post)

Corozal Carnival is right around the corner, So we want to make sure our streets are fresh and comfortable for everyone to enjoy! Yesterday we kicked things off with a little wash-down, and we'll keep at it as the days go by.

Big shoutout to the CFZ Fire Department for answering our call and helping us out with their fire truck. As you can see, our President has been right there working hand in hand with our Marshalls family and the fire crew to make it happen.

Together, we're getting it done for our community! Building Leadership, Unity & Excellence!

Stronger Together – Rising Forever. BZE @44 (CBM post)



HON GILROY USHER MAKES IT EASIER MORE DEVELOPMENT IN PORT LOYOLA WITH NEW STREETS

Through the unceasing effort of Port Loyola Are Representative Hon Gilroy Usher to ensure continued development in the division, the second street is being completed to join Arlington Dr. from Miss Brenda Usher to the street that joins Neal Pen Rd and Faber's Rd at the police sub-station.

Area Representative Hon Gilroy Usher is building the street in partnership with Belize City Council and the Government of Belize led by Prime Minister Briceño.

Completion of a second and long street as well as streets which join them will make easier for residents to reach their land or homes and result in increased economic activity in the community. The increase in economic activity will include filling of

more lots and additional housing construction.

Completion of the streets will also make it easier for the utility companies as well as small and large businesses in the private sector to provide their services to scores of families the area.

The Hon. Gilroy Usher spares no effort in bringing the best for his constituents.



ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

NOTICE

1st September 2025

APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTION CLERK

REFERENDUM

CAYE CAULKER VILLAGE

BELIZE RURAL SOUTH ELECTORAL DIVISION

In accordance with section 5 of the Referendum Act Chapter 10 of the Laws of Belize Revised Edition, 2020, the Elections and Boundaries Commission and the Chief Elections Officer with the approval of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, have appointed the following persons as Returning Officer and Election Clerk, respectively, for the Referendum in Caye Caulker Village for the Belize Rural South Electoral Division scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 8th October 2025**.

VILLAGE	ELECTORAL DIVISION	RETURNING OFFICER	ELECTION CLERK
Caye Caulker	Belize Rural South	Mr. Anthony Mai Chief Environmental Officer Department of the Environment Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management City of Belmopan	Mr. Rigoberto Quintana Fisheries Administrator Fisheries Department Ministry of Blue Economy & Marine Conservation Belize City

(SIGNED)
Josephine Tamai
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT



ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460797-CS-INDV-2
Duration: Two (2) years
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: September 29, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received loan financing from the World Bank (WB) for the execution of the Project: “Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project”.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to engage contractual services of a “**Environmental Specialist**”.

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at [MOF – Environmental Specialist – Individual Consultant – BZ-CEU-460797-CS-INDV-2 – MOF 2025 - Procurement Portal](#) or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Nayomi Torres
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Jesus Recinos** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**Recinos Cool Spot**” located in Las Tambos Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Daniel Montgomery** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at “**Road House**” located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Da Hong Jiang** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**H & D Shop**” located at # 59 Unitedville Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Caribbean International Brewery Co. Ltd.** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at “**Caribbean International Brewery Co. Ltd.**” located at # 6 Bishop Martin St., Santa Elena Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Hiron L. Giron** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**G & M Hideaway**” located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Carla M. Reyes** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Ireland Store**” located in Blackman Eddy Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Can Shao** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at “**David’s Restaurant**” located at # 102 Benque Viejo Rd., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Matilde Chavez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**El Cerro Bar**” located in Duck Run 1 Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **He Yue Dong** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Anthony’s Supermarket**” located at # 98 G.P.HWY., Santa Elena Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Baining Ye** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Tenga Fa Market**” located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jun Wen Li** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**City Corner Supermarket**” located at # 10 Joseph Andrews Dr., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Carlos Tzib** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Las Palmas Shop**” located in San Antonio Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Silverio Canto** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**U-Na-aji-il Han-na**” located in San Antonio Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Rigoberto Gonzalez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**Gonzalez Bar**” located in Buena Vista Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Luis Valdez** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at “**Tienda La Gracia De Dios**” located at # 130 G.P. HWY., Santa Elena Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Michael Canto** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**Kinich Ahau**” located in Antonio Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Yu Rong Zhu** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at “**Tequila Night Club/Lounge**” located in Red Creek Area, G.P.HWY., Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Geng Xin Chen** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**Pin Mei Restaurant**” located at # 43 Joseph Andrews, S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Bo Tai Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Chen’s Supermarket – B.T.**” located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Qiao Tian Tan** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Max Superstore**” located in Bullet Tree Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Wen Neng Su** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at “**Sunlight Restaurant Bullet Tree Rd.**” located at # 2 Guerra St., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jianming Liao** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at “**Youngfa Shop**” located at Mls.19 P.G.HWY., Sand Hill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jianming Liao** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Youngfa Shop**” located at Mls.19 P.G.HWY., Sand Hill Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **JinJun Chen** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**Steven’s Shop**” located at # 67 Cemetery Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lionel Smith** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at “**Coxman International Cool Spot**” located in Rancho Dolores Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Lionel Smith** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at “**A & D Snack Shop**” located in Rancho Dolores Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.



Ministry of Rural Transformation
Community Development, Labour and Local Government

NO 5163 University Boulevard, Belmopan
(501) 622-2678
(501) 882-2663
(501) 802-3297
(501) 802-6671
info@labour.gov.bz
www.ruraltransformation.gov.bz

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Consultancy Services – Phase I: Legal and Institutional Gap Analysis of the Labour Act

PURPOSE:
The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), invites qualified consulting firms to submit proposals to undertake a comprehensive review of the Labour Act, Chapter 297, Revised Edition 2020.

This Proposal is for Phase I of the Comprehensive Review of the Labour Act.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY:
To conduct a comprehensive legal and institutional gap analysis of the Labour Act and related labour laws, identifying inconsistencies, gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for reform, and to provide recommendations aligned with ratified ILO Conventions, CARICOM Model Laws, and national development priorities.

SCOPE OF WORK:
The selected consulting firm will:

- Review the Labour Act and related laws
- Assess institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms
- Benchmark against International Labour Standards and CARICOM model laws
- Conduct stakeholder and political economy analysis
- Present preliminary reform recommendations

DURATION:
Four (4) months – December 2025 to March 2026

QUALIFICATIONS
Company Profile Requirements:
The consulting firm must be a registered entity with experience in legal reform, labour law, or institutional analysis in Belize or within the CARICOM region. It should have a proven track record of successfully delivering law and policy reform projects in collaboration with government ministries, international organizations, or regional bodies. The firm must also demonstrate the capacity to manage multi-disciplinary teams and deliver results within tight deadlines, while maintaining sufficient financial and administrative resources to ensure effective project execution.

Key Experts Required:

- Team Leader / Senior Labour Law Expert**
 - Law degree (LLB or higher) with at least 10 years’ post-qualification experience in the relevant subject area.
 - Expertise in employment law, labour legislation, and legal reform in Belize or the CARICOM region.
 - Strong knowledge of International Labour Standards.
- Policy Reform Specialist/Economist**
 - Master’s degree in Public Policy, Economics, Law, or related field.
 - Minimum 7 years’ experience in institutional analysis, governance, public sector reform, and labour market assessment.
 - Good understanding of CARICOM Model Laws, Belize’s legal and institutional systems, and basic economic modelling.
 - Strong knowledge of Belize’s economy and regional integration matters.
 - Proven ability to conduct consultations, facilitate social dialogue, and manage political economy assessments.

GUIDANCE ON SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL:

- Email submitted to: labour.comm@labour.gov.bz
- Subject email: Consultancy Services – Phase I: Legal and Institutional Gap Analysis of the Labour Act
- Attachment 1: Technical Proposal in password protected PDF format
- Attachment 2: Financial Proposal in password protected PDF format
- Submission deadline: 15th October 2025 at 4:00 pm

Note 1: Only complete submissions received by this deadline will be considered.

Note 2: Further guidance on submission requirements is provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR), which can be requested from the Labour Department at the same email address.

BELIZE:



WRIT OF REFERENDUM

By Her Excellency, Dame Froyla Tzalam,
G.C.M.G.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

FROYLA TZALAM
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

To the Returning Officer of Caye Caulker Village in the Electoral Division of

BELIZE RURAL SOUTH

(through the Elections and Boundaries Commission)

WHEREAS, section 2(1)(b) of the Referendum Act, Chapter 10 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, provides that a referendum shall be held where a petition is presented to the Governor-General signed by least twenty-five percent of the registered electors in a specific district or area of Belize, praying that in their opinion a certain issue or matter is of sufficient public importance that it should be submitted to the electors for their views through a referendum;

AND WHEREAS, on the 21st day of May 2025, a petition from the registered electors of Caye Caulker Village in the Belize Rural South Electoral Division was presented to the Governor-General, praying that in their opinion THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A RESPONSIBLE, REGULATED AND TAXABLE LEGAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY ON THE ISLAND OF CAYE CAULKER WITH A PORTION OF THE REVENUE GOING DIRECTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF CAYE CAULKER AND ITS RESIDENTS is of sufficient public importance that it should be submitted to the electors for their views through a referendum;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with section 2(3), the petition presented to the Governor-General was referred to the Chief Elections Officer for verification of the petitioners, and for certification that at least twenty-five percent of the registered electors in that area have in fact appended their signature to the petition;

AND WHEREAS, on the 31st day of July, 2025 the Chief Elections Officer certified that all the signatures on the petition were verified against the Elections and Boundaries Department's record of registered electors for Caye Caulker Village, in the Belize Rural South and that the petition had been duly signed by at least twenty-five percent of the registered electors in Caye Caulker Village whose names appear in the approved voters' list existing at the time of presentation of the petition;

AND WHEREAS, section 3(1) of the Referendum Act provides, inter alia, that the Governor-General shall, within thirty days of the receipt of the certificate from the Chief Elections Officer pursuant to section 2(4), verifying that the petition has been duly signed by the requisite number of electors as specified in section 2(3), issue a Writ of Referendum to the returning officer of the particular area in which the referendum shall be held;

AND WHEREAS, section 3(2) of the Referendum Act provides that the day named in the Writ for the holding of a referendum shall not be less than thirty days after the issue of the Writ;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FROYLA TZALAM, Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, **Governor-General**, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 3 of the Referendum Act, do hereby order that a referendum on the matter THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A RESPONSIBLE, REGULATED AND TAXABLE LEGAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY ON THE ISLAND OF CAYE CAULKER WITH A PORTION OF THE REVENUE GOING DIRECTLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF CAYE CAULKER AND ITS RESIDENTS shall be held in Caye Caulker Village in the Belize Rural South Electoral Division and hereby require that you cause a referendum on the said issue to be held according to law on **8th day of October, 2025**, and that you certify to the Chief Elections Officer the total number of ballot papers counted and the number of votes cast for and against the proposition in Caye Caulker Village in the Belize Rural South Electoral Division in accordance with section 5 of the Referendum Act no later than the 9th day of October 2025.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of Belize this 28th day of August in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Five.

LIQUOR LICENSE
NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Damani Pop** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**BC Typically Grocery**" located at # 28 Water Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Alba M. Dubon** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Carlos Fruits & Vegetables**" located at # 1202 Mahogany St. Res., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Caribbean Sprinter Limited** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at "**Caribbean Sprinter Limited**" located at # 10 North Front Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Irma G. Hernandez** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Gungulung's Shop**" located on Barbara Harris St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Adrian T. Belgrave** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**A1 Convenience Shop**" located at # 82 East Canal St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jenny Y. Padron/Wallace K. Usher** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at "**Z's Corner Store**" located at # 6412 Fern Lane, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Andre Perera** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at "**Da Buzz Restaurant & Lounge**" located at 1 1/2 Miles P.G. HWY., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Maria De Jesus Banner** is applying for a **Public Special Liquor License** to be operated at "**MLS Tavern Restaurant & Bar**" located at # 9 Bullet Tree Rd., S.I. Town, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Tarsicio Coc** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at "**Southside Cool Spot Bar**" located in San Antonio Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

EULOGY

BERNABE ISMAEL COCOM

June 11, 1943 – August 28, 2025



Bernabé Ismael Cocom was born in 1943, during World War II – the deadliest conflict in human history...being the 4th child in a family of 4 other brothers and 4 sisters: Gabriel+, Israel+, Vitalino, Everardo, Aurora, Roberto, Laurez, and Erguida. In a time of limited resources, distress, and lack of opportunities, his parents struggled to raise a family that would contribute significantly to the social and cultural fabric of Benque Viejo del Carmen.

Ismael received his education at St. Joseph School, renamed Mount Carmel Primary in 1963 when the Pallottine Sisters celebrated their golden jubilee. In his latter days, Ismael would not hesitate in giving credit to the Pallottines for his formation as a wholesome and disciplined person. In his reflections on occasion of the visit of Mother General D'Souza of the Pallottine Sisters in 2023, Ismael said:

"Sharing my experience with the Pallottines takes me back to my Infant School days with Sisters Margaret, Radigundis, Ferrer, Rosalyn and Erentrudis [...] I have fond memories of a caring nurse, Sr. Beatrice. Now and then she would call me into the clinic and put a pill or a few drops in my mouth, to make me strong, she would say. I was so excited the day she gave me my first pair of tennis shoes. I was ten years old.

A year later, I became the sisters' gardener. After school hours and on Saturdays, I worked at the convent garden under the supervision of Sr. Nicasia. At 6:00 p.m., before the sisters began evening prayer, I would be paid \$2.00, and be off, so happy to have money in hand to help my family. I became the Sisters' trusted worker until I turned 15 and left Benque..."

A turning point in Ismael's life happened in 1958. Having completed primary school, he was given the opportunity to enter the teaching profession through the pupil-teacher program, under the mentorship of Sr. Erentrudis, the school principal. Such was the beginning of a fruitful career in education. This opened the opportunity for Ismael to get his high school education at St. John's College in Belize City. The catch, however, was that after graduation, he would have to return home or be sent elsewhere to teach under the Roman Catholic Management and pay off the Diocese \$15 per month through paysheet deductions, until the bill was cleared. This he fulfilled, upon graduation in 1962, when he received his first teaching assignment in Ladyville. At first, he was not at all that happy, but would then consider it a blessing, for at Ladyville he met his lifelong partner. In 1965, he married Ms. María Antonia Díaz who bore him 4 children: René Ismael, Ana Marie, Edgar Luis, and Miguel Angel.

In 1971, Ismael was the recipient of a Commonwealth scholarship in education at the University of Newcastle in England. On this experience, he would share:

"Two other teachers, Chalia Bejos and a Pallottine nun, Sr. Estella Rivero travelled with me. I was so happy I would have company and be relieved of my fears as I had never been aboard an airplane. All was well during my course, until Easter break when I was informed that all res-

idents had to vacate. I did not have anywhere to go, were it not for Sr. Estella who interceded to have her community in Rochdale assist me. I was so grateful, once more, to the Pallottine Sisters for their help when I most needed it..."

In the summer of 1972, upon the promptings of the late Fr. John S. McHugh, Ismael accepted the post of principal at Mount Carmel Primary School. He would take over duties from Mrs. Carmita Contreras, the first lay principal. Mrs. Contreras' work had proven wrong to what many people in town surmised, that things would fall apart in school the day the Pallottines departed. Mr. Cocom would attest to Mrs. Contreras' experience and professionalism, rooted in the solid foundation and training implanted by the Pallottine Sisters.

Ismael was returning to his hometown as a married man with two children with no house to move in. Avid in his ways of providing quick solutions to temporal issues, Fr. John McHugh said the convent was empty, to which Ismael interjected: *"Thanks for the offer, Fr. John. The place is familiar to me, and I am not afraid of ghosts."* Though grateful of having a temporal living quarters in what used to be the sacred abodes of the Pallottines, Ismael welcomed the transition in 1974 when his family moved into his new house.

Ismael served as principal for 10 years. In 1999, on the visit of Rev. Mother Stella Holiz, he would reflect on his life as a lay educator and the changes in our culture and its spirituality:

"We have gradually lost some of those good qualities of community life, and our schools certainly reflect that loss. It seems that our schools are indebted to everyone. Their needs are obvious, but there are no community volunteers to come to the rescue. We are all very busy with our pet projects that so often stifles the spirit of cooperation. [We must] realize that we cannot reach out to the children through indifferent adults, but we can reach out to indifferent adults through their children, if our intentions are sincere and our efforts are genuine."

Words of wisdom, indeed, which today ring true in a world characterized by a "liquid" culture and a spirituality of disembodiment and Pope Francis' call to rediscover a mysticism rooted in the Sacred Heart.

In 1982, Ismael left the administration of Mount Carmel High School in the hands of Mr. Armando Chulin and took over the post as manager of the Book Centre in Belize City, a job he executed to the best of his ability until his retirement, when he returned to Benque Viejo and opened M&M store.

Ismael served in many capacities throughout his life, as a gardener, educator, salesman, manager, and businessman. He even delved into the political arena and served as part of the Lions' Club in Benque Viejo. However, his humanistic and spiritual traits effected the aura that made him a committed father, spouse, statesman and community activist. His humbleness, self-giftedness, and honesty stand out and would surely make us say of Ismael, *"Here truly is a Belizean in whom there is no deceit."* For his exemplary service, the Government of Belize would bestow upon him the Meritorious Service Award last year, in 2024.

In reminiscing on the story of his life, Ismael would state: *"I consider myself fortunate and blessed. The Pallottines taught me that work is important. I must work for my supper, never bite the hand that feeds me; that education would make me trainable, training would make me employable, and that a good attitude would keep me employed. Thanks to Almighty God, my parents, family and friends, the Pallottine Community, all my co-workers, for helping me be the person I am and, please, forgive me for the many times I failed you."*

This evening we cheer Ismael on his return to the Father's House echoing Paul's ex-

hortation to Timothy: *"You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of*

righteousness."

May Ismael rest in the peace of Christ.
David N. Ruiz, 30 August 2025

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: VEHICLE
San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicle. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this vehicle is
2008 Blue Ford Escape



"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
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Facebook: Belize Auction



BAA
Belize Airports Authority

Request For Proposals (RFP)

Institution: Belize Airports Authority
Country: BELIZE
IFB Title: Security Services
IFB Number: NCB02 / 2025

The Belize Airports Authority (BAA) hereby invites qualified contractors to submit proposals for aviation security screening services at the following airstrips:

- a. John Grief II – San Pedro
- b. Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport – Belize City
- c. Punta Gorda Airstrip
- d. Placencia Airstrip
- e. Ranchito Airstrip – Corozal
- f. Pelican Beach Airstrip – Dangriga
- g. Caye Caulker Municipal

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders and Proposal Documents that can be obtained (free of cost) from the BAA's office located at the Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airstrip in Belize City, between the hours of **09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. local time Belize – Monday to Friday**, or via email at vinaybhojwani@baabz.org and delvitcastillo@baabz.org, or downloaded from the website: MOF procurement website.

The BAA invites all interested companies to a mandatory Pre-proposal Meeting including site visits, that will be held from **September 15th to September 19th, 2025.**

Qualified contractors should submit three (3) hardcopies of their proposals and all required documentation to the following address:

Belize Airports Authority
Sir Barry Bowen Municipal Airport
Belize City
(Ref: Apron Works – Placencia / Dangriga)

Deadline for the submissions of bids is **10:00 a.m. local time Belize on October 3rd, 2025.**
Late proposals will not be accepted.



Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project Blue
Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE:
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize’s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities’ livelihoods.

The Finance Assistant will sit within the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence (BBFP) Unit’s Finance Section and will be funded under the GEF BGI-IP project. While the Finance Assistant will be supervised daily by the BBFP Finance Officer, the position will work in close collaboration with the Project Manager to ensure effective project execution and timely financial and administrative support.

The Finance Assistant will be responsible for supporting all financial and operational aspects of the project, including project budgeting, financial tracking and reporting, procurement support, and adherence to administrative and financial procedures. The role requires ensuring full compliance with the fiduciary, procurement, and reporting requirements of WWF (as the GEF Agency), and the Government of Belize. .

In addition, the Finance Assistant will provide financial and administrative assistance to project staff, grantees, and implementing partners, ensuring that budgets, contracts, and agreements are managed in accordance with WWF and GEF standards, as well as Government of Belize policies

Role and Responsibilities

1. Financial Management

- Assist in the preparation, review, and monitoring of annual budgets and expenditure reports, flagging discrepancies or issues as needed.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of all financial transactions, ensuring documentation is well organized, readily accessible, and auditable and validates and certifies payments before submission to the Finance Officer to ensure accuracy, eligibility, and compliance with approved budgets.
- Ensure project funds are used in accordance with the Project Document, WWF fiduciary standards, GEF financial policies, and Government of Belize financial rules and procedures.
- Provides timely financial information to the Finance Officer and Project Manager to support project management decisions.
- Track co-financing contributions and prepare financial documentation required for reporting to the WWF-GEF Agency.

2. Procurement and Contract Support

- Assist the Project Manager and Finance Officer with procurement processes, ensuring compliance with WWF GEF, and GoB regulations.
- Prepare procurement documents (e.g., purchase orders, contracts) and maintain an updated procurement register.
- Support preparation, administration, and monitoring of contracts, grant agreements, and consultant agreements to ensure compliance with terms and conditions.
- Ensures agreements and payments are processed timely and in accordance with WWF GEF, and Government of Belize policies and audit requirements prepares paperwork for approvals, secure required signatures, and ensure distribution of documents to relevant parties

3. Compliance, Reporting, and Audits

- Coordinate and prepare financial progress reports for submission to the Finance Officer, Project Manager, and WWF GEF Agency, ensuring compliance with donor requirements.
- Assists in the preparation of project progress reports.
- Prepare timely financial inputs for twice annual Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and annual reporting requirements.
- Support external and internal audits by preparing documentation, responding to queries, and ensuring recommendations are implemented.
- Assist with mid-term and terminal evaluations by providing financial information and supporting the implementation of corrective actions related to financial findings.
- Regularly monitor compliance with WWF GEF reporting requirements and project deadlines.

4. Administrative and Operational Support

- Assists the Finance Officer in the day-to-day financial administration and oversight of project activities in office.
- Ensure all project documentation (e.g., financial report, progress reports, consultant and technical reports, meeting minutes, correspondence) is properly maintained in both hard and electronic copies.
- Provides PMU-related administrative and logistical support for workshops, training, meetings and other related activities.
- Maintains an organized filing system for all project financial and administrative records, including agreements. Regularly monitors compliance with WWF reporting requirements and project deadlines, and ensures reports are acknowledged and

routed appropriately.

- Provide support in coordinating special projects and ad hoc requests from the Finance Officer or Project Manager.
- Perform any other related tasks assigned by the Finance Officer or Project Manager in support of effective project implementation

5. Other Duties

Core Competencies

- Ability to manage budgets, monitor expenditures, validate payments, and ensure compliance with donor and government financial procedures.
- Proven skills in preparing accurate financial reports and maintaining comprehensive records to support audits, evaluations, and donor reporting.
- Experienced in processing payments, drafting financial documentation, ensuring compliance with procurement procedures, and coordinating project logistics.
- Advanced skills in Microsoft Excel and experience with accounting systems such as QuickBooks.
- Effective written and verbal communicator who can liaise with executing partners and prepare clear documentation for diverse stakeholders.
- Proficient in maintaining comprehensive, well-structured financial and administrative records to support audits, evaluations, and reporting.
- Works collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team to achieve project goals, while remaining adaptable, accountable, and focused on high-quality service delivery.
- Sound analytical and problem-solving abilities to identify discrepancies, assess risks, and propose corrective actions to support project decision-making

6. Qualifications and Requirements

The Project Finance Assistant will be recruited based on the following qualifications.

Academic Qualifications

- Minimum of an Associate Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration.
- A Bachelor’s Degree (or higher) in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or a related field will be considered an asset.
- Professional certification or training in accounting, bookkeeping, financial management, or procurement would be an asset.

General Experience

- At least three (3) years of professional experience in financial management, accounting, budgeting or related areas.
- A minimum of one (1) year experience working within donor-funded projects, government institutions, or NGOs is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate in multidisciplinary teams and maintain effective working relationships with diverse stakeholders.

Specific Experience

- A minimum of two (2) years demonstrated ability to manage finances in accordance with established financial guidelines within private and/or public sector.
- Proven experience in budget preparation, financial reporting, expenditure monitoring, and audit support.
- Practical knowledge of Government of Belize financial and procurement regulations is an asset.
- Working experience in accounting/financial software, such as QuickBooks, or other relevant systems.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel.
- Experience in procurement processes, contract administration, and grant monitoring, ensuring compliance in accordance with established financial guidelines within private and/or public sector.
- Record management skills, ensuring financial and administrative documentation is organized, accessible, and audit ready.
- Demonstrated ability to identify financial discrepancies, assess risks, and recommend corrective actions to support project decision-making.
- Commitment to integrity, accountability, and confidentiality in managing financial information and project resources.
- Willingness to travel within Belize and to work outside normal office hours (nights and weekends), when required.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements: The salary of the contract is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The estimated Starting Date and Duration: Start date will be effective at contract signature. Contracts are renewed biennially based on an assessment of performance. This position requires full-time commitment.

Interested persons can send an Application Letter and CV along with three references to email: RBBPM.bbfunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address **by Friday, 12th September 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

RBB Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City
RE: Finance Assistant

Applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV and provided during interviews.



Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project Blue
Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE:
Project Communications Specialist

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize’s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanent Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities’ livelihoods.

A cornerstone of this project is partnership with Belize’s coastal and fishing communities. These communities are at the frontlines of conservation and resource management, and their participation, knowledge, and stewardship are critical to the project’s success. As such, communication and outreach efforts must go beyond awareness-raising and actively engage communities in shaping, owning, and sustaining conservation outcomes.

The Communications Specialist will therefore play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between technical conservation efforts, government priorities, and the lived realities of local stakeholders. By translating complex information into accessible messages, facilitating dialogue with fisherfolk and community leaders, and ensuring that community voices are reflected in national and global platforms, the Specialist will help strengthen trust, participation, and long-term sustainability of conservation initiatives in Belize.

Objective

Under the supervision of the Project Manager, the Communication Specialist will aim to increase overall visibility of the project and its achievements and ensure communications on and around the project actions and impacts are disseminated on national and international levels. The engagement of a dedicated communication staff member will provide consistent, high-quality and effective products that can strengthen the project implementation in Belize and share best practices and key learnings with a wider audience through the BGI-IP Hub and Global Coordination Project. Strategic communications activities and knowledge management products may be used to facilitate future PFP and BGI-IP initiatives and will be shared broadly. The communications specialist will also play a key role in connecting with the larger Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program under the GEF, sharing communications products and collaborating on best practices.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Communications Specialist will be responsible for the following:

1. Strategic Communication and Outreach:

- Develop and implement a project communication plan that raises awareness of the Resilient Bold Belize (RBB) Project, ensuring alignment with the BBFP Communication Strategy and Implementation plan, national priorities and community realities.
- Produce and disseminate communication products (print, broadcast, audiovisual, and digital) tailored to diverse audiences including government, civil society, academia, donors, and local coastal/fishing communities.
- Translate technical and policy information into clear, accessible messages that resonate with fisherfolk and other community stakeholders.
- Develop a publicly accessible website hosted by BBFP U for the project, to showcase project documents, lessons learned and project successes.

2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Lead communication and outreach activities with protected areas managers, ensuring the use of clear, culturally appropriate, and participatory approaches that support their role in conservation and stakeholder engagement using culturally appropriate and participatory approaches.
- Organize and deliver presentations, workshops, and dialogues with fisherfolk, community leaders, and stakeholders to share project goals, progress, and opportunities.
- Support executing partners (MPA and PA managers) in organizing regional/local stakeholder meetings and lead an annual national-level meeting to inform stakeholders, decision-makers, media, and the public on project progress.
- Contribute to the organization of events planned as part of the project

3. Media Relations and Social Media:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with media outlets to ensure accurate and consistent coverage of RBB project activities.
- Plan and coordinate media events, press releases, radio programs, and campaigns that highlight project achievements and lessons learned.
- Develop and manage the project’s online presence, including website updates, social media posts, and engagement on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube; ensure the platforms are updated weekly.

4. Knowledge Management and Documentation:

- Support in the development of the project’s promotional material and publications.
- Collect, document and produce lessons learned, good practices, and success stories for dissemination nationally, regionally, and globally.
- Ensure the editing of project document (reports, presentations, etc.) and alignment with WWF GEF and Government of Belize Communications guidelines and branding.
- Collaborate with the Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Management Officer to capture and present project progress and lessons at national, regional, and international forums.
- Maintain a photo/video database and ensure proper storage of communication materials for long-term use.

5. Coordination and Technical Support:

- Collaborate closely with the Project Manager, BBFP Unit, partner agencies, and community organizations to ensure coherence in communication efforts.
- Contribute to gender-sensitive and inclusive communication approaches in all project activities.
- Provide communication support during community consultations, policy dialogues, technical meetings, and project events.

- Be available to travel to coastal communities and participate in evening or weekend activities as required.
- Be available to travel to Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program regional or global events

6. 4. Technical Delivery of Project Components:

- Component 3 will focus on Strengthened communications, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program.

Within this component, the project communications specialist will contribute to:

3.1.1. OUTPUT: Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed and implemented:

- Strategic gender-inclusive communications plan designed to include required project reports, communications products to be produced (such as videos, social media posts)
- Facilitation of communication efforts for project coordination among all stakeholders.

3.1.2 OUTPUT: Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management products and platforms, including.

Communications materials designed and developed such as best practice manuals; case studies; technical reports and in coordination with the MEK officer, dissemination of knowledge materials in an accessible and gender-sensitive manner to relevant projects, programs, and initiatives.

Accessible project lessons captured and disseminated including through Knowledge Management Products.

3.1.3. OUTPUT: Participation in BGI IP Communications events and workshops

Staff remain in close communication with BGI IP and attend quarterly virtual calls with the IP.

Qualifications and Experience

Education:

- A minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies, Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field.
- Certification or training in Sustainable Communication, Environmental Communication, or related specialization is an asset.

Professional Experience:

- At least five (5) years of proven experience in communications at the national and regional levels, including social media and online communications.
- Minimum of two (2) years of direct experience engaging Belizean coastal and fishing communities, with strong understanding of their socio-economic realities, cultural context, and environmental challenges.
- Experience in developing and delivering presentations and workshops, particularly with fisherfolk and grassroots community groups.
- Demonstrated experience in collecting and managing data and information from fisherfolk and local communities for knowledge management and reporting.
- Proven experience working with managing entities such as community-based organizations, NGOs, government agencies, or fisheries cooperatives in Belize’s marine and coastal sector.

Skills and Competencies:

- Strong knowledge of Belize’s community environment, governance structures, and the social context of coastal and fishing communities.
- Ability to translate technical and conservation concepts into clear, accessible communication products for diverse audiences (local communities, policymakers, donors, and international stakeholders).
- Demonstrated skills in media relations, audiovisual content creation (photography, videography), and use of digital platforms (social media, websites).
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; Spanish is considered an asset
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and familiarity with multimedia and design tools (e.g., Adobe Creative Suite, video editing software).
- Ability to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, and willingness to travel extensively within Belize, regionally or internationally.

Personal Qualities:

- Strong interpersonal skills with proven ability to build trust and maintain relationships in multicultural and community settings.
- Creative, adaptable, solution-oriented, and committed to conservation and sustainable development.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements: The salary of the contract is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The estimated Starting Date and Duration: Start date will be effective at contract signature. Contracts are renewed biennially based on an assessment of performance. This position requires full-time commitment.

Interested persons can send an Application Letter and CV along with three references to email: RBBPM.bbfunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address **by Friday, 12th September 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

RBB Project Manager
Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City
RE: Finance Assistant

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**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**SUPPLY, PLACE AND COMPACT FILL MATERIAL ON THE MAIN ROAD AT
ST. MATTHEWS VILLAGE SUB-DIVISION**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) hereby invites interested bidders to tender for the supply, place and compact of fill material on the Main Road within the new St. Matthews Village Sub-Division located at Mile 37 in the Cayo District. The volume of fill material to be supplied is 15,950^{m³} (cubic meters - loose).

All financial proposals should reach the office of the Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator at the address below no later than **Friday 12 September 2025** at **10:00 am**. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**

Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator

Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

Power Lane

Belmopan

BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5221

Email: peu@midh.gov.bz



**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND
HOUSING**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

**SUPPLY, PLACE AND COMPACT FILL MATERIAL IN THE GUNGULUNG AREA,
LAKE INDEPENDENCE, BELIZE CITY**

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) hereby invites interested bidders to tender for the supply, place and compact of fill material in the Gungulung Area, Lake Independence, Belize City. The volume of fill material to be supplied is 5,310^{m3} (cubic meters - loose).

All financial proposals should reach the office of the Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator at the address below no later than **Friday 12 September 2025** at **10:00 am**. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**

Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator

Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing

Power Lane

Belmopan

BELIZE C.A.

Tel: +501-828-5221

Email: peu@midh.gov.bz



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REGULAR DATA
+
5GB
SOCIAL MEDIA DATA

UNLIMITED
on-net minutes + SMS
600 off-net minutes

\$60.00

PRESS
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+
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